# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:324
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2008
OPENING UP OF PRAVASI CENTRES IN EMBASSIES
Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

**Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

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(a) whether the Government is considering to open Pravasi Centres in its Embassies and Missions abroad for attending to the problems of NRIs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a)&(b): This Ministry proposes to set up Overseas Indian Centers in the Indian Missions and posts at Dubai, Kuala Lumpur and Washington to cater to the interests of the Indian diaspora. The objectives of the centres are to provide legal, medical and financial services to the Indian diaspora. While the Dubai centre will look after the entire Gulf region, the centre at Kuala Lumpur will cater to the diaspora in Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei. The Washington centre will perform similar functions for USA and Canada.
Workers are exploited both in India by recruiting agents and overseas by the foreign employers and their agents. Legal services are required both to make them aware of their rights and obligations and advise them in cases of disputes with employers. Health services, ncluding psychiatric counseling, are needed, particularly for the women emigrant workers. Most Overseas Indian Workers also need financial advice on transfer of funds, savings and investments.
There is also a need to access the knowledge sector to help India tap the large pool of experience and expertise of the local diaspora. NRI women who are victims of fraudulent marriages require legal and other forms of assistance.
To make the Indian centres functional, six posts in CGI, Dubai and HCI, Kuala Lumpur and five posts in EOI, Washington have been created which include one post each of Director, Assistant and PA and three (two in Washington) posts of Professionals with legal, medical and financial expertise. The selection for the posts of Director Community Welfare (Development) at these stations is in process in consultation with DoPT. The remaining posts are proposed to be filled locally.